

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to object to the provision in Proposed Bill #HB 5425 that establishes that the burden of proof lies with the party requesting a special education hearing. As a parent of a child with special needs I believe this bill will significantly impact kids with disabilities in our state in a very negative way. I believe this bill would make due process hearings excessively costly and would be an insurmountable challenge for parents, creating a situation in which the families could not have a fair hearing with any reasonable chance of prevailing.

The lives of the parents with special needs children are difficult in so many ways. We work, we hope, we pray for our actions to make a difference in our children's lives. We need to have faith that decency and the public trust will shape the decisions of our elected officials to pass laws intended to provide a fair and just playing field, especially true relative to the supporting role that education plays in shaping their very fragile lives.

Please remind yourselves that as elected officials, you are placed in your position as lawmakers by the people who voted for you to essentially represent their interests. However, in today's politics as a profession, the vocal minority, often slick and acting with an insiders roadmap, can outmaneuver the most needy of the states constituents. The special needs students define that group.

As a parent of a special needs child, I will do everything in my power and energy to unveil the voting record for this bill. I will publish through every blog and email chain that I can, the spread the names of those who supported it. We the people, the parents of special needs children, will begin to vote as a block. And we will strike against those who oppose the very principles of justice. It is outrageous that the defenseless should need protection from those put in the position of responsibility to provide it.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Dubb
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Cheshire, CT